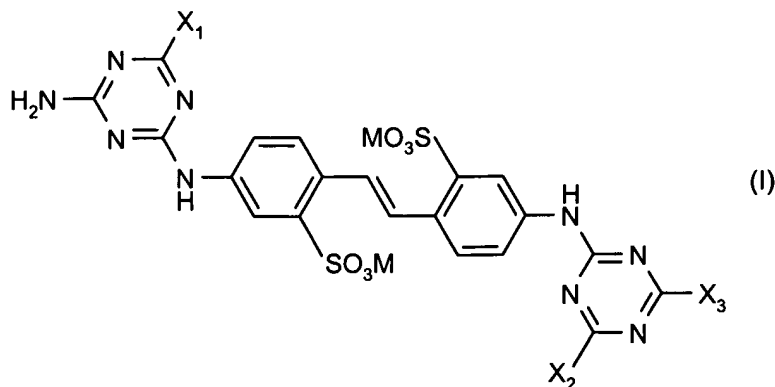


IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended): A composition for the fluorescent whitening of paper or paperboard comprising
 - a) a fluorescent whitening agent (FWA) derived from 4,4'-bis[(1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino]stilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid and characterized by one or both of the triazine rings carrying an -NH₂ substituent;
 - b) water and
 - c) optionally, further auxiliaries.
2. (original): A composition according to claim 1, comprising
 - 5 to 50% by weight of the FWA component a),
 - 50 to 95% by weight of water and
 - 0 to 40% by weight of component c), each based on the total weight of the composition, wherein the sum of the components a) to c) amounts to 100%.
3. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which the fluorescent whitening agent is a compound of the formula (I)



wherein

X₁, X₂ and X₃ each, independent of the other, represent -NR₁R₂ or -OR₃, wherein R₁ and R₂ are, independently of each other,

hydrogen, a C₁-C₄alkyl-group, which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two of the following residues selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄alkoxy, hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, carbonamido, thiol, guanidine, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, unsubstituted or C₁-C₄alkyl-

substituted C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, halogen, a heterocycle and a sulphonic acid residue, and wherein the carbon chain of an alkyl group having two, three or four carbon atoms can be interrupted by oxygen,

or, alternatively,

R₁ and R₂, together with the nitrogen atom linking them, complete a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

R₃ represents C₁-C₄alkyl and

M represents H, Na, Li, K, Ca, Mg, ammonium, or ammonium that is mono-, di-, tri- or tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄alkyl and/or C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl.

4.(original): A composition according to claim 3, in which, in the compound of formula (I),

X₁ and X₂ each independently, represent -NH₂, -NHC₁-C₄alkyl, -N(C₁-C₄alkyl)₂, -NHC₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl, -N(C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl)₂, -N(C₁-C₄alkyl)(C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl), -NH(C₂-C₄alkylene-C₁-C₄alkoxy), -N(C₂-C₄alkylene-C₁-C₄alkoxy)₂, -NHC₁-C₄alkylphenyl, tetrahydrofurfurylamino, morpholino, piperidino, pyrrolidino or cyclohexylamino or an amino acid or amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been abstracted from the amino group and

X₃ represents -NH₂.

5. (original): A composition according to claim 4, in which, in the compound of formula (I),

X₁ and X₂ both represent -NH₂, -NHC₁-C₂alkyl, -N(C₁-C₂alkyl)₂, -NHCH₂CH₂OH, -N(CH₂CH₂OH)₂, -N(C₁-C₂alkyl)(CH₂CH₂OH), -NHCH₂CH₂OCH₃, -N(CH₂CH₂OCH₃)₂, -NHCH₂CH₂-O-CH₂CH₂-OH, -N(CH₂CH₂-O-CH₂CH₂-OH), -NHCH₂CO₂M", -N(CH₃)CH₂CO₂M", -NHCH₂CH₂CO₂M", -NHCH(CO₂M")CH₂CH₂CH₂NHC(=NH)NH₂, tetrahydrofurfurylamino, benzylamino, cyclohexylamino, pyrrolidino or morpholino and

M" represents H, K, Na, ammonium or ammonium that is mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted by C₁-C₄alkyl and/or C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl.

6. (currently amended): A process for Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5 for the fluorescent whitening of paper or paperboard wherein the composition according to claim 1 is applied to the paper in the pulp mass, in the form of a paper or paperboard coating composition, or directly in the metering size-press or in the film press.

7. (currently amended): ~~Use, A process~~ according to claim 6, ~~for the fluorescent whitening of paper,~~
~~wherein the composition is applied to the paper or paperboard in the form of a paper coating~~
~~composition or directly~~ in the metering size-press or ~~in the~~ film press.

8. (currently amended): ~~Use, A process~~ according to claim[[s]] ~~6 or 7, for the fluorescent whitening of~~
~~paper wherein the composition is applied to the paper or paperboard directly~~ in the metering size-
press or ~~in the~~ film press.

9. (currently amended): A process for the fluorescent whitening of paper or paperboard by treating the
paper with a composition according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~.

10. (currently amended): Paper or paperboard, which has been whitened with a composition
according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~.

11. (new) A process for the fluorescent whitening of paper or paperboard comprising contacting the
substrate with the florescent whitenting agent composition according to claim 1.